

ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Richmond, Nov. 18, 1863.

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 148.

I. The quarterly returns of arms, accoutrements and equipments in the hands of troops, required by paragraph 1348 of the Army Regulations, have heretofore been furnished in a very few cases only by commanding officers of regiments and battalions. These returns are deemed essential, and will hereafter be promptly rendered.

II. It is hereby made the duty of Generals commanding brigades to see that these returns are made on the 1st of January, April, July and October of each year, and forwarded, through the regular channels, to the Chief of Ordnance at Richmond, within twenty days after these dates respectively.

III. Should any officer fail to render the return required on the 1st of January next, within twenty days thereafter, the Brigadier General commanding the brigade to which the officer is attached, will cause charges for "disobedience of orders," or of "neglect of duty," as the case may require, to be made and forwarded, without delay, to the General commanding, for his action. The same action will be taken on every subsequent omission to render such returns.

IV. Brigade and district ordnance officers will give every assistance to colonels of regiments and officers commanding battalions, in the preparation of the "returns," according to the form prescribed; and they will also see that arms and accoutrements lost by the men are duly charged against them on the muster rolls of their respective companies.

V. The chief ordnance officer of every army and department will promptly report to the Chief of the Ordnance Bureau every officer in the command to which he is attached, who fails to make the "returns" herein required.

By order.

S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector General.